

**EXERCISE--Do NOT publish or broadcast as an actual event**

## **EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington  
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

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**For immediate release**  
News Release No. 3  
May 19, 2010 12:40 p.m.

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### **Umatilla emergency update #1 –12:30 p.m.**

Camp Murray, WA –The following is an update from the Washington State Emergency Operations Center.

#### **Situation**

The incident occurred at 9:26 a.m. when a storage “igloo” containing the chemical agent Mustard Gas caught fire and has since been extinguished. Officials at the Umatilla Chemical Depot confirm three (3) employees were injured during an accident today. All three employees are being treated for their injuries.

#### **Governor’s Statement**

“Our state is prepared to do what it takes to keep residents as safe as possible while we assess the impacts of the incident that occurred at Umatilla Chemical Depot earlier this morning.”

“Washington State Emergency Management Department continues to monitor and coordinate the situation with Benton County and other local and emergency response entities. At this time, one school has been evacuated and we continue to watch the situation for any changes requiring further action to support Benton County.”

“Communities located near the depot have prepared for years for this kind of emergency event. I ask that residents in affected areas refer back to that training. Stay calm and listen to KONA 610AM or 105.3FM, local TV stations, your Tone Alert System and other public warning systems for further updates or additional instructions.”

“There is also no need at this time to stock up on supplies. Major state highways remain open to allow for normal supply and distribution of resources to Benton and surrounding counties.”

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**Key Points**

- State Agencies and Emergency Operations centers are activated to provide support to Benton County to protect lives, property, economy, and environment.
- Agencies are responding according to their plans and procedures. Local residents are urged to follow the directions of emergency managers and first responders.

**State emergency response activities**

Benton county officials have evacuated the following areas:

- Columba River --Sector M - stretch of the Columbia River approximately 20 miles above and 20 miles below McNary Dam. The boundaries are Juniper Canyon on the east (upstream side) to Crow Butte State Park on the west (downstream side).
- One school in Benton County has been evacuated.

**Road Closures as of 11:05 a.m.**

- I-82 (EB) -- US Hwy 395 and Locust Grove Road
- WA State Hwy 14 (East) -- Benton County Line MP 166.5
- US Hwy 12 (EB) -- US Hwy 730 (Wallula Junction)
- West Bound traffic leaving OR is not affected

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The State Enhanced 911 Office in cooperation with local telephone carriers reminds all citizens in the affected area:

- To stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need to make a telephone call. Remember a FAX or a computer also uses a telephone line and its use may affect your ability to get immediate help in a life-threatening emergency.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unless you need an emergency response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
- If you experience other types of problems not related to these emergency services, call the appropriate telephone number for those services.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. 9-1-1 lines must be kept open for people who have a true emergency.
- If you pick up your telephone to make a call and do not hear dial tone, DO NOT HANG UP. Simply wait a few seconds, and you will get dial tone and be able to make your call.

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